

REMARK

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 80, 87, 95, 107, and 112 have been amended; no claims have been cancelled; and no claims have been added. Therefore, claims 80-116 are now presented for examination.

U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Paragraph 2

Claims 95-106, and 112 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In particular, the Examiner points out that reference to "the card body" (presumably the fourth reference) in claim 95 appears to be incorrect. Claim 95 has been corrected, and so that the "the card body" comprises "a cavity for removably receiving at least a portion of the receptacle module (rather than "the card body") as a unitary module.

Since claim 95 has been amended to correct this defect, the Applicants believe that the rejection to claim 95 has been overcome. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection to claim 95 be withdrawn.

Since claims 96-106 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 95, and inherit the limitations of claim 95 and add further limitations; and since it is believed that the rejection to claim 95 has been overcome, the Applicants

respectfully request that the rejection to claims 96-106 be withdrawn and allowed.

U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Paragraph 1

Claims 86, 93, 102, and 114 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that claims 86, 93, 102, and 114 are not supported by the application. The Applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the Application at page 37, line 13, as well as corresponding FIG. 14B in which it clearly states and illustrates that a replaceable DAA 28 (receptacle module) is "fully inserted" into the cavity 254 (card body).

Since it is believed that the rejection to claims 86, 93, 102, and 114 have been overcome, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection to these claims and allow them.

The Examiner also stated that FIGS. 22-25 are unclear. However, the Examiner did not provide a statement indicating what is unclear about the figures. The Applicants' copy of these figures indicate that all lines and reference numerals are legible, and cannot otherwise determine what needs to be clarified.

As such, FIGS. 22-25 have not been modified in any way. However, if the Examiner can direct the Applicants' attention to what needs to be corrected, the Applicants would gladly analyze the situation.

U.S.C. §103(e) Rejections

Aldous in view of Hardesty, Clarke, and Research Disclosure

Claims 80-116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldous et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,183,404, hereinafter "Aldous") in view of Hardesty (U.S. Patent No. 4,241,974, hereinafter "Hardesty"), Clarke (U.S. Patent No., 4,611,875, hereinafter "Clarke"), and Research Disclosure entitled "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) Cable Terminator/Filter Device," published by Kenneth Mason Publications Ltd., England in September 1990 (RD).

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Aldous discloses a communications card for receiving a media connector that is capable of being mounted in a computer. The communications card is divided into a retractable access portion of the communications card. The retractable portion can be accessed by manipulating an actuating mechanism to release the retractable portion. The retractable portion may be reinserted back into the computer.

Hardesty discloses an adaptor for connecting two telephone cords to a wall terminal.

Clarke discloses a power adaptor used to connect electrical power to a telephone station via a cross-connect jack.

Research Disclosure discloses an ISDN cable terminator/filter device that is used to provide ISDN services.

For the reasons set forth below, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that claims 80-116 are unpatentable as being obvious over Aldous in view of Hardesty, Clarke, and RD.

First, Aldous, Hardesty, Clarke, and RD do not, in combination, disclose the Applicants' invention as recited by claims 80-116. Applicants maintain that none of Aldous, Hardesty, Clarke, and RD teach or suggest modification of their respective adaptors to form the adaptor of Applicants' invention as recited by the claims.

Aldous addresses a need for a connector interface for use with a 5 mm PCMCIA communications card for use with a laptop. The Applicants' invention as recited by the claims addresses a further need. The Applicants' invention as recited by the claims addresses a need for a connector device that can be replaced without having to replace the communications card to which it is attached (see Application, page 4, lines 13-15).

Hardesty addresses a need for an adaptor capable of interconnecting multiple plugs to a wall terminal. Applicants submit that neither Hardesty nor Aldous teaches or suggests modifying Aldous using Hardesty. Furthermore, the combination of Aldous and Hardesty would not produce the Applicants' invention as recited in the claims. As stated previously, the only way to use the Hardesty adaptor with an Aldous connector device would be to connect a telephone line

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between them, which would not result in a connector card and receptacle module being removably attached to each other.

Clarke addresses a need for providing power to telephone stations via a cross-connect field power adaptor plug/jack. Again, neither Aldous nor Clarke teaches or suggests modifying Aldous using the teachings of Clarke. Furthermore, the combination of Aldous and Clarke would not produce the Applicants' invention as recited by the claims.

RD addresses a need for providing ISDN service and filtering for ISDN telephones. There is no teaching or suggestion in Aldous or RD to modify Aldous using the teachings of RD. Furthermore, combining Aldous and RD would not produce the Applicants' invention as recited by the claims.

Secondly, Aldous does not disclose a receptacle module and card body that are further configured to be removably attached to each other as a unitary module as the Examiner contends, and as required by the Applicants' invention as recited in claims 80-116. In Aldous, the communications card 70 comprises a retractable portion 72 to which a media connector may be attached. The retractable portion is retracted using a spring. However, Aldous does not teach or suggest that the retractable portion may be removed as required by the Applicants' invention as recited by the claims.

Furthermore, none of Hardesty, Clarke, and RD teaches an adaptor having a receptacle module that may be removed from a card body. Importantly, Hardesty, Clarke, and RD do not even teach a receptacle module attached to a communications card.

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Since none of Aldous, Hardesty, Clarke, and RD teach or suggest, at the least, an adaptor having a receptacle module that is removably attached to a card body, they do not singly, or in combination, disclose the Applicants' invention as recited by the claims.

As such, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claims 80-116 be withdrawn, and that the claims as amended, be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the Amendment and Remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

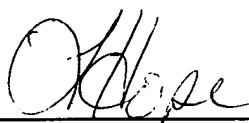
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: May 8, 2002



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In the Specification:

At page 14, after the third full paragraph, please insert:

“FIGS. 22 A-D provide various perspective views of the pivoting cover of FIG. 22.”

At page 14, after the fourth full paragraph, please insert:

“FIGS. 23 A-C provide various perspective views of the sliding drawers of FIG. 23.”

At page 14, after the sixth full paragraph, please insert:

“FIGS. 24 C-E provide various perspective views of the receptacles of FIG. 24.”

At page 15, after the fourth full paragraph, please insert:

“FIGS. 27 A-D provide various perspective views of the rotatable and retractable member of FIG. 27.”

At page 16, after the second full paragraph, please insert:

“FIGS. 30 C-G provide various perspective views of the receptacles of FIG. 30.”

At pag 17, aft r the third full paragraph, pl as ins rt:

"FIGS. 34 C-F provide various perspective views of the receptacles of FIG. 34."

At page 17, after the fourth full paragraph, please insert:

"FIGS. 35 A-D provide various perspective views of the receptacles of FIG. 35."

At page 18, please replace the first full paragraph as follows:

"As is evident to those skilled in the art, advances in technology [is] are allowing many different electrical devices to be made smaller than was contemplated just a few years ago. Represented in Figure 1 is a partial perspective view of a lap top computer 8. In order to meet the demand for devices utilized with such lap top computers without adding any significant weight or bulk, devices such as a modem card 118 (shown partially withdrawn from the lap top computer 8) which complies with the PCMCIA (also known as PC Card) standards have been produced. Significantly, while most lap top computers are generally note book size (about 8.5 inches by 11 inches) or smaller, the need for further miniaturization of devices such as the modem card 118 will increase as computing devices of all kinds continue to shrink.

At page 18, please replace the second full paragraph as follows:

The lap top computer 8 represented in [Figure1] Figure 1 includes a PCMCIA compliant socket 124. The Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) promulgates the PCMCIA standard which

has gained wide acceptance in the industry. It is preferred that the PCMCIA compliant socket adhere to PCMCIA standard pertaining to Type I, Type II, and Type III cards. The preferred standards specify the physical, electrical, and environmental parameters which compliant devices must meet. The system and method of the present invention described herein are preferably compatible with the PCMCIA Card Services Specification 2.1 and Card Services Specification 2.1 as well. This standard and the accompanying specifications are [well-¼known] well-known in the art and PCMCIA release 2.1, PCMCIA Card Services Specification 2.1, and Card Services Specification 2.1, PCMCIA Standard Release 2.1, and all releases promulgated thereafter (including the PC Card standard (1995)), are now all incorporated by reference herein in their entireties. It is to be understood that the present invention can be utilized with other PCMCIA specifications and standards which are now available or which become available in the future as well as with other similarly instructive standards which are now available in the industry or which become available in the future. Examples of such other specifications and standards include the CardBus PC Card standard which is also now incorporated by reference in its entirety. Further information regarding the implementation of these standards can be obtained from the publication Anderson, D. & Shanley, T., CardBus System Architecture (1996) (published by Addison-Wesley Publishing Company) which is also now incorporated herein in its entirety.

In the Claims:

1 80. (Once Amended) A compliant communications device, comprising:
2 a receptacle module configured for interfacing with a communications line;
3 and
4 a card body configured for making operative and removable connection
5 with a signal utilizing device, wherein the receptacle module and
6 card body are further configured to be removably attached to each
7 other as a unitary module.

1 87. (Once Amended) A communications device, comprising:
2 a receptacle module configured for interfacing with a communications line;
3 and
4 a PCMCIA compliant card body configured for making operative and
5 removable connection with a signal utilizing device, wherein the
6 receptacle module and card body are further configured to be
7 removably attached to each other as a unitary module.

1 95. (Once Amended) A communications device, comprising:
2 a receptacle module including a receptacle configured for closely receiving
3 a communications plug; and
4 a card body configured for making operative and removable connection
5 with a signal utilizing device, the card body comprising a cavity for

6 removable connection with a signal utilizing device, the card body
7 comprising a cavity for removably receiving at least a portion of the
8 [card body] receptacle module as a unitary module, wherein the
9 dimensions of the cavity and the receptacle differ.

1 107. (Once Amended) A communications device, comprising:

2 a receptacle module configured for interfacing with a communications line;

3 and

4 a card body configured for making operative and removable connection
5 with a signal utilizing device, wherein the receptacle module and
6 card body are further configured to be removably attached to each
7 other as a unitary module, and the card body comprises
8 communication signal processing circuitry.

1 112. (Once Amended) The communications device of claim [106] 109, wherein

2 the receptacle module further comprises first and second electrical
3 conductors provided in [each of] the recess, the first and second electrical
4 conductor being positioned such that they make electrical continuity with
5 first and second electrical contacts in the plug when the plug is received
6 by the recess.